COMMANDERS DIGEST

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President Gives Top Priority To DOD's 'Project Transition'

President Johnson has directed government agencies to push job placement programs well past priorities already required by law to help newly discharged veterans find civilian employment.

His Aug. 14 order now requires the nation's 2,200 Federal-State employment offices to make personal visits or telephone calls to every serviceman returning to civilian life and offer individually-tailored assistance in finding jobs.

"These veterans have served their country well," the President stressed, "it is only right that their country serve them as well."

He singled out DOD's "Project Transition" as an existing example of how the services, federal and state agencies and private industry can work together to give certain military personnel the needed training and education before discharge to return them to civilian life employable.

This project is distinct from current DOD policy and practice at separation centers where all personnel up for discharge are counseled about job assistance rendered by Federal-State employment offices. Assistance includes testing, advice on selecting a field of work, actual job referrals, and help in writing job applications.

The Chief Executive pointed out that 750,000 military personnel will be leaving the Armed Forces during the next 12 months and that one of six discharged in the past year encountered difficulty in finding a civilian job, waiting nine weeks on the average.

To ease the return to civilian life, Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara indicated "Project Transition" should be operational at all major military installations by Jan. 1, 1968.

Priority has been given so far to enlisted personnel who came in without a civilian skill and did not acquire one while in service. Preference also is accorded those who have served in combat arms and want to upgrade or change their civilian skills.

Those with six months or less to serve before discharge are in the first target group.

The program is voluntary. Commanders have the option to grant on-duty time for "Project Transition" general education or job-related training.

COMMANDANT WELCOMED—Three Okinawa-based commanders greet Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Wallace M. Greene Jr., (right) upon arrival at Kadena AB, Okinawa. Conferring with Gen. Greene prior to his inspection of Marine personnel at Okinawa are (left to right) Air Force Maj. Gen. Jerry D. Page, Commander, 313th Air Division; RAdm. Damon W. Cooper, Commander, Patrol Four, U.S. 7th Fleet, NAF Naha, and Maj. Gen. John G. Bouker, Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific (Forward).

Reduced Operating Status Ordered For 16 Victory Ships on Vietnam Duty

Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara announced Aug. 14 that eight Victory ships activated from the National Defense Reserve Fleet for Vietnam duty are being placed in "reduced operating status."

Eight more of the General Agency ships are scheduled to cease operating next week.

Secretary McNamara said the action is a result of improvements in port operations in Southeast Asia, which have created a surplus of shipping capacity on the West Coast.

Until further action is taken, the ships will be manned by skeleton crews and remain idle on the West Coast.

Secretary McNamara also said a study has been launched to determine if additional ships should be placed in reduced operating status or be returned to the National Defense Reserve Fleet.

There are 172 General Agency ships in operation around the world carrying Defense Department and Agency for International Development cargo.

Washington Memos

AIR FORCE 21st Tactical Air Support Squadron, Nha Trang AB, Vietnam, has received Presidential Unit Citation. Unit was cited for actions which . . . "resulted in the success of many ground operations, and the saving of hundreds of friendly lives" during period of Aug. 1, 1965 to Feb. 1, 1966.

NAVY RADM. FREDERIC A. Bardshar succeeded RAdm. Vincent P. de Poix as Commander, 7th Fleet Carrier Division 7, at change-of-command ceremonies at U.S. Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan, Aug. 10. Adm. Bardshar reported to new post from Chief, Requirement and Development Division, Joint Chiefs. Adm. de Poix will report to duty in Washington, D.C.

ARMY AVIONICS ENLISTED personnel, grades E-5 and E-6, may now apply for enrollment in Avionics Equipment Maintenance Supervisor Course at Ft. Gordon, Ga. Applicants for new course should have primary MOS of 35K, 35L, 35M, 35N or 35P. Course is designed to train team chiefs and shop supervisors. Additional details are in AR 350-32 and DA Pamphlet 350-10.

BUREAU OF NAVAL Personnel has set Dec. 9 for 22nd annual national competitive examinations for the Regular Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps.

NAVY HAS IMPROVED a pesticide spreading device now being used in Vietnam to reduce mosquito population along jungle streams. Device is mounted in nose of helicopter and spreads pesticide by compressed air. Navy Disease Vector Control Center, Naval Station, Jacksonville, Fla., developed apparatus and interest in its further development and standardization has been expressed by Army.

DURING FISCAL YEAR 1967, the largest number of students — 7,746 active duty officers — was graduated from the Air Force Officer Training School, Randolph AFB, Tex. Included were 133 women and 363 airmen who were graduates of the Airman Education Commissioning Program.

AMONG TWELVE MEMBERS appointed by President Johnson to the new Consumer Advisory Council is Richard H. Grant, general manager of the Pease AFB, N.H., Federal Credit Union. The appointment is for two years.

NAVY IS LOOKING for 3,330 civilians during next 22 months for direct enlistment as petty officers to serve with Seabees. Direct petty officer procurement program began in January 1966 and terminated in August 1966 when 5,000-man quota was met. Program was reactivated last July and during first two months 248 men with skills in construction enlisted.

AIR FORCE planes hit by small arms fire in Vietnam are being repaired quickly with "patch and glue them" system devised by Air Force Systems Command materials engineers. "Glue" is super-strength epoxy adhesive that is mixed by personnel in field, applied to patches large enough to cover bullet holes and affixed to exterior surfaces. Aircraft currently wearing metal or fiberglass patches on wings, helicopter rotor blades and fuel storage tanks include HH-43 and UH-1 helicopters and low-flying F-4Cs and RF-101s.

SEVENTH AIR FORCE Commander Gen. William W. Momyer received Distinguished Service Medal from Army Chief of Staff Gen. Harold K. Johnson during ceremonies at new Military Assistance Command compound, Saigon, RVN. Gen. Momyer was cited for service while 7th Air Force Commander and MACV Deputy Commander for Air Operations during period of July 1, 1966 to July 15, 1967. He was praised for his leadership in providing "highly effective air support" for ground forces and conducting "relentless interdiction" of enemy supply lines.

MARINE CORPS COMMANDANT Gen. Wallace M. Greene has praised hospital corpsmen serving with Marines in Vietnam. In a letter to Navy's Surgeon General, Adm. Robert B. Brown, general said corpsmen are "first-stringers on our combat team, we would have it no other way." He said, "I am sure these corpsmen know the great respect we Marines hold for them is both enduring and undiminished. . . ."

NAVY DEPARTMENT HAS granted city of New York permission to use several buildings and land at the former New York Naval Shipyard for a driver training school for school dropouts. City will provide maintenance and security of the property in lieu of rental payments.

AIR FORCE REPORTS that 25 percent of its enlisted men returning from overseas assignments are receiving their first choice of duty area in the U.S. Statistic came from a 12-month survey that also noted first choice of base is going to about 10 percent of returning airmen.

NAVY IS TESTING an ultrasonic inspection system which speeds up inspection of welds in submarines and surface ships. System prints on tape the location and size of all internal defects discovered during an inspection.

NEW VICE CHIEF of Navy Material is RAdm. Jackson D. Arnold, who relieved RAdm. Ralph L. Shifley. Previously, Adm. Arnold was Deputy Chief of Naval Material for Logistics. Adm. Shifley has been approved for promotion to vice admiral and reassigned as Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Logistics.

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Marine Commandant Comments On Latest Visit to Vietnam

Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Wallace M. Greene Jr. said Aug. 15 his 10-day trip to Southeast Asia reassured him "we will accomplish our objectives" in Vietnam.

However, he told newsmen at a Pentagon briefing, "it is not going to be easy, nor is it going to happen soon."

Gen. Greene left Washington, D.C. Aug 3 on his sixth trip to that area since becoming Commandant. He spent most of his time in Vietnam's I Corps, but also met with top U.S. and Vietnamese officials in Saigon. He also stopped at Okinawa, the Philippines and Hawaii.

He said during his four days with the 77,000 Marines in I Corps he asked many of them what they thought of the M-16 rifle. Most preferred it over the M-14, he said.

On the subject of helicopters, Gen. Greene said Marines could use more helicopters in their area to speed up the war's progress. He pointed out, though, that Marines are meeting tactical requirements with the helicopters on hand.

As for additional troops for I Corps, he said the job can be done with the present number of troops, but additional men would permit the Marines to more quickly obtain their objectives.

He praised the fighting men in Vietnam, saying "they have proved themselves to be professionals, all of them, and they are a real credit to our country."

Navy, ESSA Announce Plans For Project Stormfury 1967

Plans for seeding hurricanes with silver iodide this year have been announced by the Navy and the Environmental Science Services Administration (ESSA), Department of Commerce.

The experiments, to last through Oct. 15, are a continuation of Project Stormfury which was started in 1961 to learn more about hurricanes and how to control them.

In making the announcement, Navy and ESSA said they hope to step up the experimental pace by expanding the seeding operations area and increasing the amount of silver iodide used in seeding storms.

They said any suitable storm in the North Atlantic may be seeded as long as there is little chance the storm's center will approach within 50 miles of a populated area within 24 hours. Previously, operations were limited to an area between Bermuda and Puerto Rico.

Seeding missions will be flown from Roosevelt Roads Naval Station, Puerto Rico. A Navy aircraft will drop silver iodide generators. Aircraft from the Air Force and ESSA will monitor conditions before and after seeding.

NATO CONFEREES—Lt. Gen. Hannes Trautloft, Commander, West Germany's Air Force Group South, is greeted by U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Jack G. Merrell, USAFE Vice Commander, upon his arrival at Wiesbaden AB for a visit to USAFE headquarters. The West Germany Air Force Group is part of NATO's 4th Allied Tactical Air Force, commanded by Air Force Gen. Maurice A. Preston, Commander-in-Chief, USAFE

Third Report on Sea-Level Canal Sent to Congress

President Johnson has submitted to Congress the third annual report from the commission studying the feasibility of building a sea-level canal between the Atlantic and Pacific.

In the report, the Atlantic-Pacific Interoceanic Study Commission said it has evaluated a canal route near the Nicaragua-Costa Rica border and established facilities for on-site investigation of a route through the Altrato-Truando river valleys in northwest Colombia.

The commission also reported it has finished initial studies on broad national and international implications of the canal. The studies covered foreign policy, national defense, canal financing and shipping patterns.

Effects the canal may have on United States' relations with the canal site countries and the countries that use the canal are also being evaluated, the commission said.

The commission must make its final report, with recommendations, by June 30, 1968. But a request from the commission to extend the deadline to Dec. 1, 1970 is now pending before Congress.

Unavoidable delays in starting field work and postponement of the nuclear cratering experiments were the reasons given for requesting the extension.

Four Units in RVN Get Transportation Awards

Four military units assigned to Vietnam—one from each service—have been cited "for unusual and outstanding service in the field of military transportation and logistics."

Winners of the Annual Defense Transportation Award presented by the National Transportation Association are:

Army's 175th Assault Helicopter Company; Navy's Cargo Handling Battalion Two; Air Force's 15th Aerial Port Sq.; and Truck Company, H&S Battalion, Force Logistic Command of the Marine Corps.

Association President Kenneth L. Vore and Maj. Gen. James C. Sherrill, USAF, chairman, Joint Transportation Board of JCS, will make award presentations Oct. 4, during the 22nd Annual Transportation and Logistics Forum of NDTA in Los Angeles.

Nominations for the Defense Transportation Award were submitted to the Joint Chiefs of Staff by Commander in Chief, Pacific, Adm. U.S.G. Sharp. The Joint Transportation Board of JCS made the final selections.

New Antenna System Undergoes AF Tests

Air Force is using EC-135 aircraft to test a new, single-wire antenna that trails behind an aircraft more than five miles.

The flight tests are being conducted at March AFB, Calif.

Engineers are attempting to perfect the trailing wire antenna system to provide low frequency radio transmission capability from a jet aircraft.

Coiled on a spool, the transmitting antenna is lodged under the fuselage of the aircraft. When ready for operation, the spool is unwound—much as a fishing reel—to the proper length for the frequency being used.

Attached to the end of the wire is a conical, fiber glass drogue that provides drag to uncoil the wire and aerodynamic stability.

VIETNAM HONORS—Lt. Gen. Stanley R. Larsen, Commanding General, I Field Force Vietnam (right), receives the National Order of Vietnam, Third Class, and Gallantry Cross with Palm during ceremonies at I Force Headquarters in Nha Trang. Making the presentation is Vietnam Gen. Cao Van Vien, Chairman, RVN Joint General Staff, and Vietnamese Defense Minister.

Flying Safety Procedure Gets Guard Endorsement

The National Guard Bureau has urged its flying units to adopt a safety procedure used by the 108th Tactical Fighter Group of the New Jersey Air National Guard.

Called "Last Look," the procedure involves stationing maintenance specialists at the takeoff end of runways.

The safety plan works this way:

As an aircraft is taxied into takeoff position, specialists make a visual check for any danger signs—leaks of any kind, tire damage, loose doors—or any other potential danger spots that could possibly have developed during a plane's movement from the ramp to the takeoff point.

Applying the "Last Look" plan over the last two years, 108th officials said 73 "rejects" have been found. They feel application of the safety plan has saved lives and aircraft as well as having prevented some aborts.

Fire Prevention Week Scheduled for October

President Johnson has designated the week beginning Oct. 8 as Fire Prevention Week.

"In 1966," the President said, "more than twice as many Americans were killed by fire than on the battlefields of Vietnam."

The proclamation points out, "Every day, destructive fires bring tragedy and loss to some American families. Every year the human toll of fire exceeds 10,000 lives."

Last year, almost $2 billion worth of property was destroyed in flame and smoke.

These are grievous statistics, the President noted. Most fires are caused by carelessness or by hazardous conditions which could be corrected.

"It is imperative," the proclamation states, "that the United States undertake a massive program to perfect its knowledge of, and its protection against, the havoc of fire."

President Johnson has asked Congress to enact the Fire Research and Safety Act of 1967. The act includes development of better fire fighting and fire prevention techniques, and expansion of public education in the prevention of fire.

Infantry School Schedules NCO Candidate Course

Army has announced that the Infantry School, Ft. Benning, Ga., plans to initiate the first class in the NCO Candidate Course, Sept. 5.

The 12-week formal instruction is expected to have an input of 200 students weekly.

It is expected to produce thousands of fire team and rifle squad leaders (MOS 11B40) for possible duty in Vietnam.

The course at Ft. Benning is the largest of three such combat arms courses offered to junior enlisted grades.

Similar branch courses in artillery and armor are under study.

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